

Rep. Royce Supports 21st Century Cures

U.S. Representative Ed Royce (R-Fullerton) released the following statement after voting for the [21st Century Cures Act](#), landmark legislation to strengthen the government's search for cures to diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's, and cystic fibrosis, reform the nation's mental health care system, and bolster the fight against opioid abuse:

"Today's effort is the culmination of years of feedback from doctors, nurses, scientists, and, most importantly, patients. I was glad to be a part of this victory for millions of Americans fighting diseases without a cure, mental illness, or an addiction to opioids, and look forward to the President signing this bipartisan compromise into law."

Specifically, the [21st Century Cures Act](#):

- Streamlines and improves the Federal Drug Administration's (FDA) review of life-saving drugs for patients with breast cancer and muscular dystrophy
- Modernizes clinical trials and removes regulatory uncertainty for the development of new medical apps
- Supporting greater investments in fostering the next generation of medical researchers
- Provides \$4.8 billion over 10 years to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for cancer prevention research and regenerative medicine using adult stem cells
- Provides \$500 million to the FDA over 10 years to move drugs and medical devices to patients more quickly
- Provides \$1 billion over 2 years for grants to states to supplement opioid abuse prevention and treatment activities, such as improving prescription drug monitoring programs and implementing prevention
- Establishes an Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use (Assistant Secretary) to head the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Creates a coordinating committee to evaluate federal programs related to Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and provide recommendations to better coordinate mental health services for people with SMI
- Reauthorizes and makes technical updates to develop and implement programs to divert individuals with a mental illness from the criminal justice system to community-based services
- Reauthorizes and makes updates to grants for states to provide services to homeless individuals who are potentially suffering from serious mental illness
- Reauthorizes grants to institutions of higher education or accredited professional training programs to support the recruitment and education of mental health care providers

